



Maricopa County

Parks & Recreation Department

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To: Cindy Goelz, Budget Director

From: R.J. Cardin, Director, Parks & Recreation Department 

Date: January 28, 2022

Re: **Parks and Recreation Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Submission**

Based on the requirements established by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation is submitting our FY2023 Budget to reflect our ongoing focus on the visitor experience through quality parks and trails while being outstanding stewards of the Sonoran Desert and natural open spaces. This submission is sustainable and structurally balanced across all special revenue funds and our General Fund submittal is at baseline.

The following tables represent revenue and expenditure requests for FY23:

Revenue by Fund

| Fund | Name | Target | Submittal | Variance | Percent |
|------|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------|
| 225 | Spur Cross Ranch Conservation | \$341,141 | \$346,912 | \$5,771 | 2% |
| 239 | Parks Souvenir | \$321,884 | \$324,423 | \$2,539 | 1% |
| 240 | Lake Pleasant Recreation Services | \$4,180,807 | \$4,051,622 | (\$129,185) | -3% |
| 241 | Parks Enhancement | \$6,825,259 | \$7,392,088 | \$566,829 | 8% |
| 243 | Parks Donations | \$47,876 | \$38,147 | (\$9,729) | -20% |

Expenditure by Fund

| Fund | Name | Target | Submittal | Variance | Percent |
|------|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------|
| 100 | General | \$861,313 | \$861,313 | \$0 | 0% |
| 225 | Spur Cross Ranch Conservation | \$321,657 | \$346,912 | \$25,255 | 8% |
| 239 | Parks Souvenir | \$321,884 | \$324,423 | \$2,539 | 1% |
| 240 | Lake Pleasant Recreation Services | \$4,180,807 | \$4,051,622 | (\$129,185) | -3% |
| 241 | Parks Enhancement | \$6,825,259 | \$7,392,088 | \$566,829 | 8% |
| 243 | Parks Donations | \$32,240 | \$38,147 | \$5,907 | 18% |

This submittal reflects current operating conditions and changes anticipated to impact our revenue. Most notable, we anticipate reduced revenue in our Lake Pleasant Recreation Fund due to the planned closure of Roadrunner Campground for significant electrical and site upgrades from July 2022 to December 2022. Fortunately, the Parks Enhancement and Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Funds remain strong with current attendance and revenue projections demonstrating ongoing growth in day use activities (hiking, picnicking) and camping. To further assist with budget analysis, the following items have been included in our FY23 submittal:

- Vacancy saving projections at 10% for FY23. In FY22, vacancy savings are forecasted at 14% in F241 and 20% in F240.
- Performance raises in the amount of 5% have been included.
- Restructuring Park's educational programming by centralizing Park Interpretive Rangers under one supervisor, reducing the number of staff while ensuring program quality and consistency across all parks.
- Restructuring within Park Administration from three divisions (Operating, Administration, and Planning/Development) to two (Operations and Administration).
- Review of current job duties for Park Maintenance staff, lowering costs by replacing Park Maintenance positions with Park Custodian positions where job duties involve cleaning and custodial duties vs. repair and maintenance.
- Increasing staffing at the individual parks with new Office Assistants to provide customer service and revenue collection during all hours of operation.

In addition to the operating submittal, Parks is requesting non-recurring funding in our Enhancement, Lake, Spur Cross, Souvenir and Donation funds. This money will be focused on high priority projects including building/amenity repair and maintenance (nature center painting, HVAC, water heaters, etc.), infrastructure maintenance and upgrades (electrical, water delivery systems, septic), fleet vehicles, construction of new and upgraded trails, trail and informational signage, and other amenities for our park visitors. Parks is also requesting non-recurring funding in F225 to purchase a small parcel of land surrounded on three sides by the Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area. Providing a quality visitor experience is critical for user satisfaction and revenue generation to support the park system for a growing population; non-recurring funding is pivotal to ensure high priority projects are completed, directly impacting the quality of our amenities.

Thank you for your acceptance and continued support of Maricopa County Parks and Recreation. We remain committed to providing a high-quality, safe and healthy recreational and educational experience for our visitors and the citizens of Maricopa County. Over many years, Parks has a demonstrated track record of operating in the most fiscally responsible manner. As an example, our volunteer program is on track to top 100,000 labor hours in FY22, offsetting staffing costs by \$2,854,000 (<https://independentsector.org/value-of-volunteer-time-2021/>). Our FY23 submittal reflects our commitment to provide an essential public service while ensuring financial stability.

At any time throughout OMB's analysis phase, please feel free to contact me and/or Parks Administrator, Aimee Upton for assistance.